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Citizen News

Yorktown, Virginia

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County Receives "Green Government" Designation Program is Initiative of the Virginia Municipal League

Though York County has always made a conscious effort to be environmentally friendly, County officials recently stepped up that mission by taking on the Virginia Municipal League's challenge to become a "Green Government." In October, the County learned that it officially earned this title.

The "Go Green Virginia" Green Government Challenge sorts environmental programs and initiatives into various categories and then awards a certain number of points for each completed element. The maximum achievable number of points is 200, with 100 being the qualifying number for "Green Government" designation.

York is already up to 130 points.

"York County has been environmentally friendly for years," Director Peters said. "We have geothermal systems in most of our major buildings and we have implemented innovative projects such as our mosquito eating fish hatchery and

use of the paperless E-payroll system, among other things."

The geothermal systems alone save the County \$22,000 a year in gas and electric costs. (For more on geothermal systems, see the article on page 7.)

"But we didn't want to rest on our laurels," he added, "And we do have some areas to improve. This challenge sparked the desire to do even more than we have in the past." The "Green Government" designation will not be the end of the County's environmental initiative. "Earning the first 100 points not only recognizes past and current achievements, but sets the stage for future efforts in developing and implementing sustainable programs to save taxpayer dollars and protect the environment," said County Administrator James McReynolds.

For more information on the Virginia Municipal League's "Go Green Virginia" initiative, visit gogreenva.org.



Kayakers of all ages enjoy one of the "blueways" trails - this one on Queens Creek.

Photo courtesy of Jill Bieri, Chesapeake Experience



This summer, Riverwalk Landing was designated a "Clean Marina."

York County's Green Programs

- **Mosquito Fish:** York County breeds mosquito fish, who enjoy dining on mosquito larvae, and stocks them in areas that breed mosquitoes thereby reducing the use of pesticides in combating mosquito problems.
- **Community-wide Recycling:** York County's drop-off recycling center opened in 1990, and in 1992, the County began providing curbside recycling service to all single-family homes and most townhomes and mobile homes. In addition, bi-monthly collection events are held March through November for household chemical products and the recycling of computers and other electronics.
- **Community Participation in Advisory Boards:** Many citizen volunteers are appointed by the Board of Supervisors to serve on a board or committee in order to assist in developing environmental and/or energy conservation programs. These include the York County Beautification Committee, the Bicycle Advisory Committee, the Stormwater Advisory Committee, and the Wetlands Board.
- **Blueways:** To promote environmental awareness and enhance recreational activities, York County identified four "blueways" for canoe and kayak enthusiasts. A trail map identifies the routes for beginner, intermediate and advanced paddlers.
- **Clean Marina Status:** York County's Riverwalk Landing has been designated as a Clean Marina by the Virginia Clean Marina Program.

What's Next?

A policy change regarding the County's vehicle fleet requires consideration of Zero Emission Vehicles. Already on order is the County's first hybrid vehicle. In addition, future County construction will emphasize more sustainability and energy efficiency.

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Board of Supervisors Actions

August 5, 2008

•Approved procurement arrangements for a sewer vacuum truck and chassis (awarded to Virginia Public Works Equipment in the amount of \$203,712) and upgrades to the Seaford and Dandy vacuum station (awarded to M & W Construction Corporation in the amount of \$269,000).

August 19, 2008

•Denied the conversion of an existing hotel to a timeshare resort on property located at 119 Bypass Road. The proposed project was deemed to be inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan’s vision for the Bypass Road corridor.
 •Amended the York County Subdivision Ordinance to revise the process for considering appeals of the Subdivision Agent's decision regarding waiver of the requirement for interconnection of subdivision streets. The revision allows the Planning Commission to hear and decide appeals, but also provides the opportunity for the Planning Commission’s decision to be appealed to the Board.

September 2, 2008

•Amended the York County Code to modify the provisions requiring grass and weeds on developed or undeveloped property to be maintained at a height of 12 inches or less by changing the distance limits for required mowing to within 150 feet of a principal building and establishing a requirement for mowing with 50 feet of street rights-of-way.

September 16, 2008

•Declared the intent to enter and take necessary property easements in conjunction with the York Point sewer project.
 •Authorized a lease agreement with Child Development Resources, Inc., for office space in the Griffin-Yeates Center building. The lease reflects a charge of \$2,208 per year for the 200 square foot office. Proceeds from the rental of this space are dedicated to supplement the County Children's Food Service program operated in the Griffin-Yeates Center that is otherwise funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

October 7, 2008

•Adopted a community standard to promote a wholesome environment for children and families in York County.

October 15, 2008

•Granted exemption from real and personal property taxation pursuant to Code of Virginia Section 58.1-3651 to Olivet Medical Ministry, Inc. - Lackey Free Clinic.
 •Approved a special use permit authorizing a 199-foot self-supporting monopole communications tower with associated ground-mounted equipment at 2032 Old Williamsburg Road.
 •Approved a special use permit authorizing an electric substation on Route F-139 approximately 220 feet south of Penniman Road.

Contact Your Board Member

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District 5

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Board Appointments

Historic Triangle Bicycle Advisory Committee

James Wirkner

Peninsula Agency on Aging Board

Winifred Bragg

Appointments are made by the Board of Supervisors. Approximately 200 citizens are appointed to various boards, committees and commissions to assist in governing York County. Citizens who wish to be considered for an appointment can fill out a board/ commission application or contact the York County Administration Office at (757) 890-3320.

Crossroads Ribbon Cutting



A ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony was held Thursday, October 30, at the new Crossroads Community Youth Home. Serving the Counties of York, Gloucester, and James City and the City of Williamsburg, the new coed facility can house up to eighteen troubled young people. Pictured participating in the ribbon cutting are (from left to right) Sheila Noll, York County Board of Supervisors member (district 2); Steve Kopczynski, Chair of the Colonial

Group Home Commission (and York County's Fire Chief), Ann Jean White, Vice-Chair of the Colonial Group Home Commission, and William S. Parks, Commissioner from the City of Williamsburg.

County Receives Landscaping Award



York County won the Professional Grounds Management Society's Green Star Grand Award for Riverwalk Landing in the category of a Government Building or Complex. The competition is broken down into fifteen categories, covering private, public, commercial, and industrial landscapes. To qualify, the landscape must have

been under the applicant's continuous maintenance for at least two years. This is the first year York County has applied for a Green Star Award.

Pictured above are (from left to right) Professional Grounds Management Society Past President Greg Nichols, York County Landscape Maintenance Coordinator Joanne Chapman, and York County Landscape Technician Bob Walker.

Tax Relief for Elderly and Disabled

York County offers a program to taxpayers who are age 65 or older or permanently disabled (as of December 31 of the preceding tax year), which exempts, or partially exempts, the tax on their real estate or mobile home. To qualify for this program, a property owner must meet specific requirements as set forth by York County Ordinance. An application must be filed with the Commissioner of the Revenue annually on or before April 1.

To obtain an application, or for eligibility requirements, call the office at 890-3382. Information is also available online at: countyofyorkva.org/revenue.

Important Deadlines from the Treasurer

Taxes Due December 5

Personal Property and Real Estate tax bills for the second half of 2008 have been mailed and are due by December 5. Taxes are considered late on December 6 and penalty and interest will be assessed. If you did not receive your bill, tax information can be found on-line at yorkcounty.gov/treasurer (select "Pay Taxes, Fees, and Utility Bills").

Taxes may be paid by mail or online at the Treasurer's web-site (select "Payment Options"). Taxes may also be paid at the Treasurer's Office, or deposited in the Treasurer's drop-box at the Finance Building, 120 Alexander Hamilton Blvd. in Yorktown.

The Treasurer's Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. For information, call the Treasurer's Office at 890-3420.

Dog Licenses Due December 31

The 2009 Dog License applications have been mailed. Licenses cost \$5.00 and must be purchased by December 31, 2008. All dogs four months old and up are required to have a current license and rabies vaccination. Cats are required to have a rabies vaccination at the age of four months, but are not required to have a license.

The license may be purchased by mail or in person at the Treasurer's Office, or via the Treasurer's drop-box outside the office at the Finance Building, 120 Alexander Hamilton Blvd. in Yorktown. New this year, you can pay for your dog license by using the Treasurer's web-site: yorkcounty.gov/treasurer. To obtain a license by mail, send the application and a check payable to "Treasurer, County of York" to P.O. Box 251, Yorktown, VA, 23690-0251. A Rabies Certificate is required to purchase a first-time license.

Support Needed for YPSS Car Donation

Donations of used cars are desperately needed to meet the needs of working parents and individuals in our community. The car donation program, which has operated for many years, has helped numerous citizens achieve self-sufficiency. Reliable transportation enables citizens to maintain as well as advance in their employment.

The agency relies on the generosity of community members who make these contributions and enable this program to expand and reach out to more residents. The agency uses grant funds from the Board of Supervisors (and administered by Community Services) to pay for repairs needed on donated cars.

For more information on the benefits of making a donation, please call Cheryl Ferreira, Resource Development Coordinator, at 890-3941.

Local Business Report

by Melissa Dickens, Sr. Business Development Rep., Office of Economic Development; Phone - 890-3317 or E-mail - econdev@yorkcounty.gov. Visit yesyorkcounty.com

Every two years, the Office of Economic Development (OED) mails a Business Retention survey to a sample of over 800 businesses in York County to help identify needs or specific problems impacting the success or possible expansion of York County businesses, and to gauge our current business climate.

In January, 840 surveys were mailed. The office received 178 responses, for a 21 percent return rate. For the majority of respondents, the main issue, by far, was the current state of the economy. Many listed the economy, rising costs of living, or change in consumer spending habits as the key issue facing their business today. Workforce issues seem to be the most consistent issues facing the respondents this year and in the past. Twenty-five percent say they have issues in the areas of workforce development and employee attraction and retention. Some common concerns focused on difficulties finding experienced/skilled workers and in finding quality employees with a good work ethic.

A great deal of information was gained from this year's survey, which will be used to help in the future retention of the County's businesses. With the overhaul of the "Commercial Development Guide" (August 2008), the update of the "Business Resource Guide" (spring 2009), minor updates to the Economic Development web-site (ongoing), and the introduction of Development Professional Training sessions (spring 2009), the survey results have already proven useful in improving the County's business climate.

The complete report can be viewed at yesyorkcounty.com.

The 27th Annual Occasion for Business and Industry, hosted by the EDA and the OED, was held at the Great Wolf Lodge in October. Almost 200 people attended the event. Business Appreciation Awards were given to new and recently expanded businesses in recognition of their investment in York County. The twenty businesses recognized added roughly 2.2 million square feet of new commercial space, approximately \$229 mil-

lion of new commercial tax base, and approximately 1,082 new jobs.

Those twenty winners are: Best Buy, Big Lots, Commonwealth Centre, CustomDesign Works, Dick's Sporting Goods, JCPenney, Kohl's, Parkside Resort, Penniman Road Warehouses, Philip Morris USA, Riverside York Healthcare Center, Shoppes at OverYork, Staybridge Suites, Target, Towne Park Corporate Center, Tuscany's Coffee House, Victoria's Day Spa, Walgreens (Goodwin Neck), Williamsburg Warehousing, and Yorktown Commerce Center.

The York County Chamber of Commerce recognized Mid-Atlantic Commercial as the 2008 Small Business of the Year with an award named after the late John D. "Pete" Sterrett Jr., York County's first Industrial Development Authority Executive Director.

Special thanks to our guest speaker, Dr. Eric Williams, Superintendent of the York County School Division, and to our reception sponsors: Altria, C&F Bank, Dominion Virginia Power, Greater Williamsburg Chamber and Tourism Alliance, Henderson Inc., Mid-Atlantic Commercial, Western Refining, and the York County Chamber of Commerce.

The OED is here to serve both new and existing businesses. If you are interested in establishing, expanding, or relocating a business in York County, please contact us and let us know how we can assist you or help improve the County's business environment for everyone.

Are you or someone you know planning to open or expand a business in York County? Access the "Business Resource Guide," a complete directory of requirements and resources for new and expanding businesses, at yorkcounty.gov/econdev or call 890-3317 for a printed copy.

Don't forget to visit York County Site Selector at yorkcountysites.com to view available commercial properties in York County.



Business License Renewals due March 1

The Commissioner of the Revenue's office will mail applications to renew York County Business Licenses in early January. The license application and tax must be paid by March 1.

If you filed a Schedule C or Schedule C-EZ, "Profit or Loss from a Business," with your Federal Tax Return, you are considered engaged in business and required to obtain a business license. In addition, you are also required to file a tax return

of Business Tangible Personal Property, Machinery and Tools, annually to report all of the business furniture, tools, and equipment owned, used, and/or leased as of January 1. That form must also be filed by March 1.

If you do not receive an application, necessary filing forms, or if you need assistance, call 890-3383, e-mail revofc@yorkcounty.gov, or visit the web-site: countyofyorkva.org/revenue.



The York County School Division

302 Dare Rd., Yorktown, Va. 23692 • (757) 898-0300 • yorkcountyschools.org

School Board Begins Strategic Planning

The York County School Board has started the process of re-writing its mission and goals statements to provide guidance for the division's current programs and future initiatives.

As a part of that process, the School Board gathered input from the community through four community forums held in October and November and a community survey posted on the school division's website.

Beginning in January, the School Board will review the data compiled and will

begin to re-write the mission and goals statements for the school division. After these statements are finalized, division staff will develop specific objectives within each goal.

The mission statement, goals and objectives will help guide instructional and operational initiatives throughout the school division.

More information about the School Board's strategic planning initiative is available on the school division's website at <http://yorkcountyschools.org/strategic>.

In Case There is Snow...

As the leaves on the trees change colors and cold weather finally arrives, students and parents start to look to the skies for snow or other icy weather.

During inclement weather, schools are delayed or closed primarily due to road conditions. If the roads are clear, school will most likely start without delay. If the roads are iffy, the division superintendent may decide to delay or close for the day.

Once a decision is made to close or delay the start of a school day (typically by 6 a.m.), the division uses all available communication methods to notify parents and staff members of the status of school.

Our first communication method is Connect-ED, the division's telephone notification system. Up to six phone numbers will be called for each student and staff member in the event of a school closing or delay.



Emails are also distributed through the y-Line, the division's e-mail notification system, as soon as a decision is made. These notifications are sent to y-Line subscribers who have opted to receive emergency email announcements from the school division.

Information on the delay or closing of school is also posted on the division's website (<http://yorkcountyschools.org>), on YCSD-TV 47 and on the main phone line for the School Board Office (898-0300 - after 6 a.m.).

Should severe weather begin after the school day has started, these same notification procedures are used. The school division strives to provide two hours notice to parents if schools will close before the end of the school day.

More information on the York County School Division's policy for weather-related closings is available on the division's website at <http://yorkcountyschools.org/>

YCSD Snapshot



Kindergarten students at Waller Mill Elementary School Fine Arts Magnet learn about their new school through a school-wide search for missing gingerbread men. The gingerbread men encourage students to meet the school's staff members and explore the school building. (Above) The search ends when the kindergarten students meet the school's principal, Amy Colley.

YCSD Calendar

Nov 24	Public Hearing on FY10 CIP*
Nov 26	Early Dismissal
Nov 27-28	Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec 5	Early Dismissal
Dec 11	Interim Reports
Dec 22-31	Winter Break
Jan 1-2	Winter Break
Jan 19	Martin Luther King Holiday
Jan 21-23	Early Dismissal
Jan 26	Semester Break
Jan 26	Public forum on FY10 Budget*
Jan 27	Student Holiday

* More information about the budget process can be viewed at: <http://yorkcountyschools.org/schoolboard/finance>.

Are You Alarmed Yet? Free Smoke Alarms Offered

You may have seen this article in previous issues of *Citizen News* offering smoke alarms and home inspections. Perhaps you've been meaning to check your smoke alarms or look for potential hazards in your home, but just haven't yet taken the time or are not sure how to accomplish these tasks. The York County Department of Fire and Life Safety still offers to provide your home with smoke alarms if you do not have any or to check your existing smoke alarms and install additional alarms (if needed). We will also conduct a visual inspection of your home in an attempt to identify and notify you of any obvious hazards. If you are 65 or older, we can also assist you by looking for fall hazards.

Statistics show that having working smoke alarms can cut your risk of dying in a fire by half! We want to help our residents sleep easier at night by making sure their home has these early warning devices as well as a plan of escape in the event of a fire. In addition, falls are the leading cause of injury-related death for older adults. It's important to realize that most falls can be prevented. Our goal is to increase your awareness of the dangers that may be lurking in your home that could cause a fire or a fall, and to decrease your chances of a potentially life-threatening experience. While there may be some restrictions/limitations/availability, this is all free of charge and with absolutely no obligation.

To take advantage of this opportunity, call Annetta Norwood of the Department of Fire and Life Safety at 890-3600 or e-mail flsafety@yorkcounty.gov.



Get Alarmed, Virginia!

A Smoke Alarm Installation Program

"Ask about how you can receive a free smoke alarm"

York County Department of Fire & Life Safety • www.yorkcounty.gov/fls

757-890-3600

sponsored by:
Virginia Department of Fire Programs
Virginia Department of Health
US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

York County is "Heart Safe" AEDs Now in Most Government Buildings

Through a successful partnership between York County's departments of Fire and Life Safety and Financial and Management Services, fourteen Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) have been installed in County government buildings and twelve mobile units have been placed in selected County vehicles. The addition of these twenty-six AEDs,



obtained through a grant from the Williamsburg Community Health Foundation, expands the availability of these lifesaving devices, as several units had been previously donated through the County's participation in the Historical Triangle PAD (Public Access to Defibrillation) program.

The County's goal is to ensure that an AED is placed in every County building and recreation area. Studies indicate that the use of an AED can greatly improve a sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) victim's chances of survival. Because of that, the County has implemented the "Heart-Start, Save a Life" program that includes the training of several employees as Site Coordinators who have the responsibility for monitoring the AEDs in their building and for training their coworkers in the use of these units.

As the program continues to grow, the County will continue to seek additional funding to add even more AEDs to public buildings and recreation areas. The first five minutes after an SCA are critical in keeping someone alive, so the more units available, the better. The use of an AED, coupled with the rapid response time by our emergency medical services, could mean the difference between life and death.

For more information on the AED program, call the Department of Fire and Life Safety at 890-3600 Monday through Friday, from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. **In an emergency, always call 911.**

CERT Course Scheduled for Early 2009 Registration is Free and Now Open

The Department of Fire and Life Safety is currently accepting registrations for its Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training course, scheduled to begin in the first quarter of 2009. Residents interested in participating in CERT should be prepared to commit to attending courses on Wednesday nights for nine weeks of training and two Saturday mornings for practical skills training and a final exercise and graduation. Topics covered in the program include:

CERT organization and expectations, disaster preparedness, disaster fire suppression, disaster medical operations, light search and rescue, disaster psychology, terrorism, neighborhood fire station tour, and practical training and exercise.

Classes will be held at the Public Safety Building, 301 Goodwin Neck Road, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. For more information, call 890-3600 Monday through Friday from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. or visit the web-site yorkcounty.gov/fls.

Combatting Mosquitoes Your Help is Needed!

Believe it or not, this mosquito season was actually quite tame compared to past seasons. A lack of rain combined with prevention measures taken by the County helped to reduce mosquito numbers. Nine mosquito monitor volunteers gave their time to provide surveillance feedback. Their efforts enabled the County's ground spraying to be more effective in regards to where and when certain areas needed relief. Many thanks to the following volunteers: Angie Torrence (Dare), Benn Trash (Creekside Landing), Clarence Goodwin (Lackey), Charles Meissner (Bay Tree Beach), Robert Garrett (Skimino), Carol Tyrer (Middletown Farms), Angier Brock (Yorktown), Charles Froelich (Skimino), and Dawn Young (Showalter Road). Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer for next season is asked to call 890-3791.

Further assistance was provided through an aerial spray conducted by Langley AFB in October. The Air Force, along with York and neighboring localities, informed the public prior to the aerial spray. The pesticide that is applied is not harmful to humans.



Although we are at the end of the 2008 mosquito season, you can help nip the 2009 season in the bud by not blocking drainageways with debris. The leaf collection program has begun in the County. This free program is highlighted on page 9 of this publication.

If you have drainage concerns, please call the County at 890-3752.

Geothermal Heating & Cooling County Goes Green with this System

The County has been utilizing geothermal heating and cooling systems in several of its facilities for many years. In fact, seven of the County's buildings currently utilize the heating/cooling system, which can reduce energy consumption up to 40 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

A geothermal heat pump relies on the relatively stable underground temperature to provide heating and cooling, and sometimes hot water heating, to a home or building. This is more efficient than a conventional air source heat pump, which uses the outside air temperature to heat and cool a building. In the summer when cooling is needed, the ground acts as a heat sink as the heat pump removes heat from your home and releases it into the ground. The opposite applies in the winter when the ground functions as a heat source.

There are three components of the geothermal heat pump: the earth connection, the pump, and the distribution system. The earth connection consists of a series of fluid-filled loops either buried in the ground or submerged in a water source. The heat pump then draws the heat into or out of your house, depending on the season. The warm or cool air is then circulated through conventional ducts or radiators, or by radiant floor heating.

Although a geothermal system can cost two to three times as much as a conventional system, a return on the investment is seen within just a few years of installation, as it typically saves between 30 percent and 40 percent annually on heating and cooling costs. Saving energy prevents pollution, reduces the amount of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere, and ultimately saves dollars.

If you are considering installing a geothermal heat pump in your home or business, make sure the structure is properly sealed and insulated to increase efficiency and reduce the size of the system needed.

Protecting and Improving Water Quality County Required to Address Illicit Discharges into Stormwater System



In 2006, York County adopted a Stormwater Management Ordinance to meet state and EPA water quality requirements intended to protect and improve water quality in the Bay and its tributaries. As part of the regulations, the County is required to address illicit discharges (which is anything other than stormwater) to the stormwater system. There are a few exemptions. An illicit discharge is any discharge to the stormwater system that is not composed entirely of stormwater except the term shall not include the following discharges unless such discharges are identified by the County Administrator to cause sewage, industrial wastes, or other wastes to be discharged into the storm sewer system: water line flushing; landscape irrigation; diverted stream flows or rising groundwater; infiltration of uncontaminated groundwater; public safety activities; pumping of uncontaminated groundwater from potable water sources, foundation drains, irrigation waters, springs or water from crawl spaces or footing drains; air conditioning condensation; lawn watering, individual car washing; flows from riparian habitats or wetlands; de-chlorinated swimming pool discharges; and street washing.

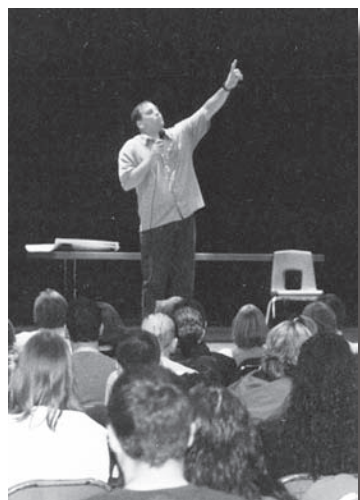
If you witness activity that may result in an illicit discharge, please call the Department of Environmental and Development Services at 890-3752. You may also file a complaint through the web-site. Visit yorkcounty.gov, select "Find it Fast" and then "EDS Citizen Request/Complaint."

Youth Week Meeting

Bobby Petrocelli to Speak

Parents are cordially invited to hear internationally known speaker and author Bobby Petrocelli at this year's Youth Week Evening Community Meeting from 7 to 8:15 p.m. on Wednesday, December 3, in the Tabb High School Auditorium. Admission is free and open to the public.

A former high school teacher, counselor, and coach, Mr. Petrocelli now travels



the globe with a powerful message and lessons he learned from a devastating personal tragedy. Over the past twenty years, he has inspired millions including parents, high school and college

students, professional athletes and the NFL. He has hosted radio and television programs, appeared on A&E and MSNBC, and won a Telly Award for his TV appearance on overcoming life's obstacles. He has also authored the best-sellers *10 Seconds Will Change Your Life Forever* and *Triumph Over Tragedy*. His humorous and personal style endears audiences and helps provide an unforgettable experience.

Mr. Petrocelli will be speaking throughout the week at each of the County's public high schools in school-wide assemblies and smaller breakout sessions.

Youth Week is an annual York County program emphasizing the importance of character development and responsible decision-making for our high school aged citizens. Now in its ninth year, the event is cosponsored by York County, the Victory Family YMCA, the York County School Division, and the York County Youth Commission.

For more information, please call Parks and Recreation at 890-3500.

2009 "Outstanding Youth Award"

Nominations Due February 11, 2009

You are invited to help celebrate some of the good news about our high school kids by nominating a deserving student for one of the County's annual Outstanding Youth Award Scholarships. Nominations in the categories of Compassion, Courage, Community Service, and Overall Achievement are due in the Parks and Recreation Office by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, February 11.

Anyone can nominate a deserving high school student for one of these awards. Nominees must be residents of York County and currently enrolled in grades 9 through 12.

A selection committee will review the nominations and name the award recipient for each category. The Supervisors and Youth Commission will host a reception in May in honor of the four award winners, their families, and nominators. The award recipients also will be presented with a \$500 Educational Scholarship at the Board of Supervisors meeting the same evening.

Nomination forms are available at the Yorktown and Tabb libraries, Williamsburg-James City County libraries, York County public high schools, the Senior Center of York, and the Parks and Recreation Office at 100 County Drive (just off Goodwin Neck Road). Nominations may also be downloaded from the Youth Commission's web-site: ycyc.info.

If you have any questions, please call Parks and Recreation at 890-3500.

Youth Commission

Applications Due

2009-2010 Apps. due by March 11



The York County Board of Supervisors is currently seeking students who are interested in applying for appointment to the York County Youth Commission for the 2009-2010 school year. Applicants must be York County residents who are preparing to enter grades 9, 10, 11 or 12 in September 2009.

The Youth Commission's primary purpose is to serve as a link between the Board and the County's youth by presenting youth-related needs and issues. In addition, Commission members typically participate in rewarding community service projects, learn about County government, sponsor county-wide high school social events, and build leadership skills through various team-building activities.

A completed application form and a letter of recommendation must be received at the Parks and Recreation office by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 11. After reviewing the applications, the Board will appoint up to three teens from each of the County's five voting districts. The new Commission will be introduced at a reception and a Board meeting in June.

Application forms are available at the following locations: Yorktown and Tabb libraries, Williamsburg-James City County libraries, York County middle and high schools, and the Parks and Recreation Office at 100 County Drive (just off Goodwin Neck Road). Applications can also be downloaded from the Youth Commission's web-site: ycyc.info.

Interested teens and their parents are invited to attend either the Monday, February 9, or Monday, March 2, Youth Commission meeting from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Yorktown Library Meeting room. You will be able to watch the meeting and ask questions of this year's commissioners. Applicants are not required to attend either of these meetings!

York County Beautification Committee



Garbage/Recycling Schedule

Curbside recycling and refuse collections will take place according to the following schedule on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's days:

Garbage and Recycling Collections regularly scheduled for Thursday, November 27, Thursday, December 25 and Thursday, January 1 will take place on the following: Saturday, November 29, Saturday, December 27, and Saturday, January 3 (respectively).

All facilities located at 145 Goodwin Neck Road, including the Transfer Station, Compost Facility, and Administrative Offices will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Normal operations will resume following each holiday.

2009 Beautiful York County Calendars Coming Soon

Beginning with calendar year 2001, the York County Beautification Committee has established an annual art contest to illustrate the *Beautiful York County* environmental calendar. In addition to monetary awards, winning art pieces are utilized to illustrate each month plus the cover of the 12-month calendar. County-specific environmental information and important dates are highlighted each month. Residents can expect to receive calendars the first two weeks of December. If you do not receive a calendar in the mail, additional calendars will be available at both branches of the York County Library and in the York County Cooperative Extension Office located off Goodwin Neck Road.

For more information about the art contest or calendar distribution, please contact Laurie Halperin at 890-3780 or e-mail halperil@yorkcounty.gov.

The following individuals were recently recognized at the YCBC's Annual Fall Banquet for their winning entries for the 2009 calendar:

Cover..... Ted Crossland
January Katherine Scanlon
February Lorraine Whittle
March..... Nann Ramsay
April Everett Feldt Jr.
May Joseph Broyles
June.....Millie Arthur

Christmas Tree Collections

Christmas trees may be set out for collection following the holiday. Trees should be placed at the curb by 7 a.m. on your regular garbage collection day beginning Monday, January 5 for collection during that week only. Please do not place trees in tree bags. All lights, tinsel, and ornaments should be removed, and extra large trees should be cut in half. You may also bring your trees to the VPPSA Compost Facility during all normal operation hours (Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.) at no charge.

If you have any questions, please call VPPSA at 728-2062.



Leaf Collection Program

The County's leaf collection program began the week of November 3rd and continues through the week of January 26th. York County residents can place an unlimited number of **clear** bags of leaves at the front roadside for collection every other week. This service is provided by the Waste Management Division at no additional cost.

For leaf collection purposes, the County has been divided into two zones.

The *Northern Zone* includes all homes on and north of Dare Road, including neighborhoods along Wolf Trap Road, Goodwin Neck Road, and homes in and near Marlbanks, Edgehill, Queens Lake, Skimino, and Nelson Park. Remaining collection weeks are:

November 24	December 8
December 22	January 5
January 19	January 26

The *Southern Zone* includes all homes south of Dare Road, including neighborhoods in Tabb, Coventry, Kiln Creek, Brandywine and Harwood Landing. Remaining collection weeks are:

December 1	December 15
December 29	January 12
January 26	

Leaves must be in clear bags and easy to handle by one person (maximum of forty pounds). Clear bags can be purchased at local hardware, grocery and department stores. Bags must be at the front roadside by 7 a.m. on the Monday of your collection week. Pickup will be completed by the end of the week. Call 890-3780 for information.

Winter Home Heating Safety Tips

As we approach the winter season, we need to turn our attention to the proper use and maintenance of home heating systems. There is a much higher fire threat in the winter due to an increased use of heating sources, such as fireplaces, woodstoves and electric space heaters.

According to Jenny Kraft, Unintentional Injury and Violence Prevention Director, Virginia Department of Health-Center for Violence and Injury Prevention, fires caused by home heating equipment used during colder months are the second leading cause of fire deaths in America and account for 36 percent of residential home fires in rural areas.

The Department of Fire and Life Safety (FLS) asks everyone to be sure every level of their home has a **working** smoke detector. Check and clean detectors on a monthly basis and replace batteries at least once a year.

FLS offers the following fire safety tips that can greatly reduce your chances of becoming a casualty or experiencing injury:

Wood Stoves and Fireplaces

- Be sure stoves and fireplaces are properly installed.
- Wood stoves should have adequate clearance of minimum 36 inches from combustibles.
- Wood stoves should be UL listed.
- Do not use flammable liquids to start any fires.
- Keep a fireplace screen in front of the fireplace opening to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out.
- Have the chimney inspected annually and cleaned as necessary, especially if it has not been used for some time.
- Never discard hot ashes inside or immediately outdoors adjacent to a structure or other items that could catch fire. Place them in a metal container outside and away from the house.
- Don't use excessive amounts of paper to build a roaring fire in the fireplace. It could ignite creosote in the chimney.
- Never burn charcoal indoors. It could produce lethal amounts of carbon monoxide.
- Keep flammable/combustible materials away from the opening of the fireplace and/or mantel. A spark from the fireplace could ignite these materials.
- Never close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace. A closed damper will help the fire to heat up again and force carbon monoxide into the house.
- If you are using synthetic logs, follow the manufacturer's instructions.



Furnace Heating

- Have your furnace inspected annually to ensure it is in good working condition.
- Be sure all furnace controls and emergency shutoffs are in proper working condition.
- Inspect the wall, ceiling, and chimney for any discoloration and/or soot buildup, which could be an indicator of a leak.
- Keep trash and other flammable/combustibles away from the heating system and hot water heater.

Electric Space Heaters

- If you use an electric heater, be sure not to overload the circuit. Only use extension cords that have the necessary rating to carry the amp load.
- Avoid using electric space heaters in bathrooms, or other areas where they may come into contact with water.
- Keep electric space heaters away from flammable/combustible materials.

Just as having a working smoke detector is vital, a carbon monoxide detector should be considered for your home. The Journal of the American Medical Association states that carbon monoxide (CO) is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in America.

CO is colorless, odorless, tasteless, and non-irritating. It is a by-product of combustion produced by common household appliances such as gas and/or oil furnaces, gas water heaters, gas space heaters, and gas clothes dryers. Barbecue grills, fireplaces, wood burning stoves, gas ovens, gas logs, and car exhaust fumes entering a home from an attached garage are also potential sources of CO in the home.

Low-level symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to the flu and are often misdiagnosed. Headaches, nausea, fatigue and dizziness are all non-specific symptoms of CO poisoning.

But, CO poisoning is preventable. Have your appliances and heating systems checked annually. The Consumer Product Safety Commission, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and FLS recommend every home have at least one carbon monoxide alarm with an audible warning signal installed near the sleeping area. Without a CO alarm's warning, you may not be aware that this fatal substance is present in your home. The result can be deadly.

If you need further information, call FLS at 890-3600 Monday through Friday from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. You can also find valuable information on the web-site: yorkcounty.gov/fls.



In an emergency, always call 911.



College of Agriculture
and Life Sciences

VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

A Partnership of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University

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Horticultural Extravaganza

The 2009 Horticultural Extravaganza is scheduled for Saturday, March 14, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at York High School. This day-long event presents a choice of over twenty horticultural topics from which you select five to attend. The program will include topics for both the novice and advanced gardener. The afternoon will feature a panel discussion of horticultural issues of the Peninsula, moderated by Cathy Lewis of *HearSay* on WHRO. There is a registration fee. Call 890-4940 to receive more information or sign up by e-mailing ex199@vt.edu.

Free Pruning Clinics

Ornamental Trees and Shrubs

February (a month when plants are dormant) is the best time to prune ornamentals. By pruning you improve the plant's health, thus reducing the need for pesticides, and ultimately improving water quality. Bring a lawn chair, pruning shears, and dress warmly. Register by e-mailing ex199@vt.edu or call 890-4940 for locations and register for these free clinics (Note: all clinics are held from 10 a.m. to noon).

January 31	Grafton True Value Hardware
February 7	Ken Matthews Landscape Nursery
February 14	Grafton
February 28	Upper York County
March 7	Tabb

Tree and Small Fruits

Join us for a discussion on pruning apple, pear and peach trees, with a demonstration on live plants and a discussion of insect and disease control. Register by e-mail to ex199@vt.edu or call 890-4940 for location and registration. Clinic is held from 10 a.m. to noon

January 17 George Reid Garden in CW

Horticultural Items of Interest

January 26-28	Mid-Atlantic Horticultural Short Course, Founders Inn, VA Beach ... mahsc.org
January 29	The Home Gardener Program--Exotic Specimens, Founders Inn, VA Beach ... mahsc.org/sub/hgp/index.htm
February 19-22	Maymont Flower & Garden Show, Greater Richmond Convention Center ... macevents.com/show.cfm/eventID/139

2009 York County Junior 4-H Camp

Jamestown 4-H Center, Williamsburg

July 27-31, 2009

Open to boys and girls ages 9 to 13

It's almost time - make your plans now to camp with us! The York County Junior 4-H camp for 2009 has been scheduled for the week of July 27-31, 2009. Registration for the camp will be accepted by mail only from April 1-17. Applications must be postmarked April 1 or later. Beginning April 20, registration and payment may be accepted at the VCE-York County office. Registration is open until all slots are filled. Registration applications will be mailed in February to all of last year's campers, current 4-H members, and anyone who requests a camp registration form. Forms will also be available on the web at yorkcounty.gov/vce/prograreas/4-H/4h_camps.htm.

Call 890-4940 or e-mail ex199@vt.edu if you have questions.

4-H Peer Teacher Program - Ages 13 to 16

Do you like learning about history, dressing in costume or uniform, and talking to people? If so, you should apply to be a 4-H Peer Teacher for the Yorktown Victory Center or Jamestown! The program involves young people in the daily costumed interpretation assisting younger visitors with hands-on activities. Selected participants will volunteer one afternoon per week for six weeks next summer. E-mail ex199@vt.edu or call 890-4940 to be placed on the mailing list.

Live Call-In Gardening Radio Program

Listen to horticultural questions and answers on WHRV 89.5FM with Jim Orband and Cathy Lewis. The *HearSay Gardening Show* can be heard the third Wednesday of each month from noon to 1 p.m. Programming is subject to interruption for current news updates. The latest in gardening topics will be discussed and you are invited to call in with your questions. Locals can dial 440-2665. Out of the area, call 1-800-940-2240.

Access to horticultural questions and answers, as well as resources, can be found at yorkcounty.gov/vce.

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in any of these programs, please call the York Cooperative Extension Office at 890-4940 to discuss accommodations ten days prior to the event.



Home Security Safety Thwart Burglars With These Tips

While it's difficult to protect your home from professional thieves, most home burglaries are committed by amateurs. These thieves are more easily thwarted if you employ some of these tips and techniques for simple security precautions:

- Lock up your home, even if you go out for a short time. Many burglars just walk in through an unlocked door or window. Be sure to change all the locks and tumblers when you move into a new house or if you lose your keys.
- Talk to your neighbors about any suspicious people or strange cars you notice lurking about. Start a Neighborhood Watch Program. Do not list your full name on your mailbox or your entry in the telephone book. Use only your first initial and last name.
- Don't leave notes for service people or family members on the door. These act as a welcome mat for a burglar. Your house should appear occupied at all times. Use timers to switch lights and radios on and off when you're not at home. If the entrances to your home are dark, consider installing lighting with an infrared detector. Most thieves don't want to be observed trying to get in a door.
- Trees located near windows or shrubbery that might shield a burglar from view can be major flaws in your home protection plan. Consider your landscaping plan in light of your protection needs.
- To help burglar-proof your home, install one-inch throw dead bolt locks on all exterior doors (ANSI Level One or Two). A spring-latch lock is easy prey for burglars who are experts in "loding" - the method of slipping a plastic credit card against the latch tongue to depress it and unlock the door. A dead bolt defies any such attack. It is only vulnerable when there is enough space between the door and its frame to allow an intruder to use power tools or a hacksaw.
- Burglar-proof your glass patio doors by setting a pipe or metal bar in the middle bottom track of the door slide.

For more safety tips, contact the Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit at 890-3639 or 890-3642.

Operation Lookout/Lockout Free Services for Seniors While Supplies Last

The York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office, Crime Prevention Unit and the York-Poquoson Triad recently started a new program called "Operation Lookout/Lockout."

In conducting Crime Prevention talks with senior citizens informing them of home security safety issues, we found that most do not have dead bolt locks on their home exterior doors. This creates a greater probability of a residential burglary. Also, exterior door hinges and strike plates come standard with 1/4 inch screws which only go into the trim work of the door. Most door viewers installed in homes are very small and limit the viewing area seen by the homeowner.

The Sheriff's Office received a grant from the Virginia Attorney General's Office for \$2,748. Operation Lookout/Lockout will allow members of the Sheriff's Office to meet with senior citizens in York County and Poquoson and install large door scope viewers. These viewers have a 132 degree viewing area allowing seniors to stand up to seven feet from the door to safely and clearly screen who is on the other side of the door before they open it.

The Sheriff's Office also purchased ANSI Level Two security dead bolt locks to install on exterior doors. In addition, we also removed the 1/4 inch screws and install 2 inch and 3 inch screws allowing them to penetrate through the trim work and into the wood frame. Switching the screws aided in the overall strength of the door. Currently, the Sheriff's Office has installed thirty-six Door Scope Viewers and fifteen dead bolt locks on senior's homes.

If you are interested in this program, please contact the York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office at 890-3654 to schedule an appointment. This is a grant and donation-funded program and is available only as supplies last.



Deputy 1st Class Rosen installs a DoorScope Viewer

Paws for a Cause Event Raises Awareness of Family Violence

Last month, the York-Poquoson Victim-Witness Assistance Program held the first annual Walk to Raise Awareness about Family Violence at New Quarter Park. Entitled, "Paws for a Cause," the free event included a variety of activities, displays and information designed to help increase recognition and awareness of the signs and dangers of domestic violence. This year, the focus was on the link between the abuse of pets and the abuse of family members. In keeping with this theme, participants were encouraged to bring leashed pets. Designed to have a fun, carnival-like atmosphere, event-goers had the opportunity to participate in various themed walks, sign up for contests, win door prizes, and pick up free materials and giveaways throughout the day. Refreshments were also provided for both two-legged and four-legged walkers.

If you are interested in volunteering to assist with next year's event, call 890-3402.

